



MERRY CHRISTMAS family & friends!!!

You are probably wondering where I've been...on the road, ministering to 7 MIAC teams per week, games on the weekends, two trips to the Ark Encounter in Kentucky and officiated a wedding in August in Omaha, Nebraska, & summer chapels to St John's and St Mary's to name a few. In addition to this, there have been meetings with individuals, coaches bible studies, MIAC golf fundraisers for the chapel teams, and marriage counseling (**via zoom in Paris, France**); Its been



Miracle at Big Rock

busy. I am finally getting caught up over Christmas break! What a great time of year to find some rest; resting in the birth of our Savior. The Prince of Peace who came to bring his peace in our lives, let's give him room in our hearts.

Ministry to hockey players is one thing, but how about the greater ministry of leading my family spiritually; no easy task at times but so rewarding. Now that Mariana and I have a year under our belts as parents, we can say, it's the greatest calling on our life. For anyone that has kids, grandkids, nieces or nephews, you know this to be true. I knew it was true but now living it out as a father, there is nothing to compare it to! It's amazing how God works in different ways as he trains and equips us in order to serve him. After all, it's all about Jesus and our service to him and those he places in our lives to serve.

Remember the Miracle of Christmas, the true meaning, which is the Gospel...**IT IS A MIRACLE!** That miracle was promised in Genesis 3:15 and we see partial fulfillment when God became flesh and dwelt among us, which is why **He is called Immanuel, God with us!** Even though Christmas is not about Christmas lights; it is about the **LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS** which is the true source of life found in Jesus Christ! May the remembrance of his birth, life, death and resurrection shine brightly in your lives this week and throughout the rest of all our lives just like these beautiful Christmas lights! **May the wonder and awe of our Lord and Savior fill you with joy in the likeness of a child!**



CHAPEL YEAR REVIEW

As the world turns the page from 2024 to 2025 we wanted to say that, **we do not overlook your faithful partnership.** We have not been great at sending thank you's or updates as often as we should. Not trying to make excuses but I am learning how to balance ministry, life as a husband and being a new father. It's amazing how time vanishes with a 1 year old son. Thank you for your patience in our updates.

2024 has been a crazy long year. I have never driven so much to so many teams and places. I have had many on-line Bible studies and in person chapels at the same time. Last Spring, chapels finished up by the first week of May as most teams headed into finals.

At the end of the chapel season (**spring 24'**) the St John's chapel group asked if we could meet weekly all summer long. They were serious to meet. To be honest, I was a little shocked (every week?). After a grueling season of driving all school year to six teams every week, I needed to rest a bit and refresh my brain. The boy's let me rest for two weeks and we got back at it on Tuesday nights, all summer, in Edina at Perkins. St Mary's got wind of what was going on and also asked if we could meet every week and we met Monday nights on Zoom. It was a successful summer with both of these teams.

During the year, two different MIAC schools reached out to me about the impact of the hockey chapels and how to multiply their impact to the other sports teams. People are noticing how these young men are carrying themselves on campus. It's a good reminder for us all that people are watching how we act and how we speak; **may we be a true reflection of Jesus** I met the head chaplain of one school and a professor of another who is in charge of campus ministry. They were both encouraged by what they had seen and heard and asked, what I do. **"It's very simple, the Bible is the only book I teach from; it's authoritative in all things."** "We deal with every topic in our culture through the lens of scripture. God's word is perfect & sufficient in every way. If we get rid of the religion of men, which enslaves men, and teach **the Gospel, Genesis to Revelation in proper context (It's the original Route 66!) It then, sets men free!!** In some ways, I was surprised that they both agreed; I came out direct and to the point. I wanted them to know that I am serious about God's word and not my own opinion. **I went on to say, that these players are not looking for my opinion, they get enough of that in their classrooms. They are seeking the truth of God's word and it's my job to deliver exactly that!** The doors are opening even wider to teachers and other staff on campus not just to players and coaches. The reason teachers/staff are asking about the chapel program is because players come to chapel asking questions about

papers they have to write for class and are asking me for help in picking topics and selecting scriptures and are giving them a little guidance and then the players put pen to paper. So far as a chaplain, my G.P.A. is a 4.0, haha!!

Professors have had me come into their office and say that, "the hockey players are writing the best scriptural based papers in class." That is very encouraging to hear, that these players are taking what they are learning in chapel and applying it in the classroom and their personal lives. I thought I had gotten into trouble, when a chapel attender said that his professor wanted to sit in on a chapel and hear what we talked about. After good discussion with the head coach and players, we decided it was best to keep it just strictly to the players.

Currently, I am meeting with 7 MIAC teams (**Augsburg, Bethel, Gustavus, Hamline, St John's, St Mary's, St Olaf**): Every few years coaches come and go and sometimes the door remains open and other times it may shut for a season or two. That happened with Hamline not for any other reason then a change in coaches. In the last newsletter, I had a section talking about godly connections. The reason Hamline shut down for three season's was there weren't any underclassmen coming to chapel, only seniors. This brings up a godly connection between Hamline and Augsburg Chapels. They have been joined at the hip since 2007 in my first season as a chaplain and they continue to be connected. I had a senior graduate from Augsburg in the Spring of 2024 who started attending chapels as a senior. I found out in this past fall that he transferred to Hamline for Grad school and still had his Covid year of eligibility. His two younger brothers were playing for Hamline. He asked if he could play for Hamline and join alongside his brothers and the coach said yes. This young man became my chapel leader at Hamline this season and the door opened up and I now have a great group of underclassmen to carry the chapels on for years to come. God always provides unique open doors that we are to walk through. It's my job to walk through them faithfully.

DONATE TO CHAPEL MINISTRY

YEAR END CHAPEL, APRIL 2024 TOP GOLF!





Summer & Fall have come and gone. The above pictures serve as a quick snapshot of the growth in the MIAC Division III hockey chapels. Pictured above are 4 of 6 schools. We were missing roughly another 25 players combined from those schools that were unable to attend. These young men are a BLESSING & ENCOURAGEMENT to us.

Your faithful support has allowed us to serve these players, spiritually and physically. Without your support; bibles, books, Christians movies, and other biblical teaching sources, including I Sought, I Found hats and Hockey Ministries T-Shirts & hats would not be able to be provided free of charge. I give it all away! We wanted to say a big THANK YOU!!!

On a side note: Many players have come back over the many years after graduating and have thanked me for the books and encouraging/challenging resources that have been given out freely and have shared how they have used them and learned and applied them to their lives. I could not get a better thank you than that. Your support is being used well.

In addition to that, you also help fund the, **"I Sought, I Found"** missions trips for the past 3 years, for which I am grateful. I am able to help purchase a big group meal and special tickets to help offset certain costs. Most costs are provided by the individuals who come but it's nice to provide a couple little extra perks along the way to bless those that come along. **THANK YOU for blessing those that come to the Ark Encounter & Creation Museum with us!**



*Armor of God Hockey
player T-shirt - HMI
produced these*



I Sought, I Found hats



HMI produced these hats

I Sought, I Found Inspired Evidence Missions Trip & Bible Conference



*3rd Annual I Sought, I Found Inspired
Evidence Missions Trip*



Biblical Authority, Answering Compromise Bible Conference

My two trips to the Ark Encounter was an **'I Sought, I Found'** trip, it was a smaller group than I had expected. But as it turned out, it was just what God had in order. My best friend from Bible College came for a visit and stayed 5 weeks. During this time we traveled to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum and also the Dayton, Ohio National Air Force Museum (19 Acres indoors of war planes covering, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Cold war, NASA, Missels & Rockets). I highly recommend taking a visit, very worth while. It truly makes you appreciate the sacrifice of so many, to give us the freedoms we have today!

The trip with Taylor firmed up our friendship more than ever and we were both reminded of God's miraculous hand on our 22 year friendship! It's good to be reminded of that from time to time, because I certainly can forget.

Mariana and I have been going to the Answers in Genesis Bible Conference since 2016. It has been an annual kickoff for me for the chapel season, where I get challenged and strengthened for the upcoming season. We have become good friends with many people who serve with AiG. They have become family to us and now Oliver...We would love to introduce you to our extended ministry family in Kentucky.

PICTURES of 2024



1st Christmas 2023



1st Trip to Mall of America



Welcome to 2024 little guy!



Grandpa teaching Oliver about cars!



Our little Valentine



Oliver teaching about the Resurrection



Hearing protection from the loud engines!



Back to the 50's Car show Weekend - June 24'



Under and out of the rain at the Car Show, hanging with Grandma!



We love the MN Zoo!



MIAC playoff game at Bethel



*Oliver's first time playing
in the snow - Dec 24'*

**OFFICIATED ANOTHER AUGSBURG PLAYER
WEDDING!**



This past August 17th was a very joyous time personally for me. I had the privilege of officiating another former Auggie hockey player to his Auggie sweetheart. I had Austin in chapel for 3 years at Augsburg and then the past two years on **Zoom**, every week on Friday mornings, while he pursued a professional roller hockey career in Paris, France. The second year Austin was in Paris, he asked if his girlfriend Emily could join us. I already knew there was something special here; this was bound to happen.

I met with them for Bible study/Marriage counseling weekly for a year (they weren't officially engaged when we started but it was currently in the works and we all talked openly about it). They came to me last April seeking advice on how to honor Christ as they were planning on moving in together come fall of 2024 in Paris. I said, "**Biblically, you can't honor Christ and live together before marriage.**" They figured that would be my answer and asked me to marry them by end of August in Omaha, Nebraska and that's what we did. They really honored God by doing it the way He designed marriage to be. It was such a blessing to see a young couple not just jump the gun and move in and try things out; they really wanted to honor God's purpose and plan of marriage and I have no doubt they will honor Christ and each other!

WELL DONE, AUSTIN AND EMILY!

**In His Grip,
Max, Mariana & Oliver Erickson**



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I Sought, I Found is a ministry under the leadership of International Ministerial Fellowship which is a clearing house for donations and a 501(c)3 missions credentialing ministry. Max Erickson recently got upgraded to Rev. Max Erickson after 17 years in service; now in his 18th year in ministry. I Sought, I Found ministries also partners with Hockey Ministries International. We are deeply grateful for your partnership. Thank you for your support in helping us take the Gospel onto the MIAC Universities and to the Men's Hockey programs. You are helping bring young men into a right relationship with Christ as not only their Savior but also as their Lord! To God be the glory!

If you wish to support us, you can donate on-line through the link above which goes directly through IMF which is a registered 501(c)(3) or if you wish to mail a check, please write the check out to IMF and send it to the address below:

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